

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:158
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2003
TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTHERN STATES
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Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether at a recently held meeting of Tourism Ministers of Southern States it was decided to undertake joint promotion of tourism in the South;
- (b) if so, whether suggestions have been made to the Government to run a heritage train for South and to allow more foreign airlines to land in Southern States;
- (c) if so, whether the tourism industry in the States is suffering mainly for want of adequate funds from the Government;
- (d) if so, whether the major neglected areas are the heritage and thematic museums; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to extend the help required by the State Governments in providing better facilities for tourists and for upkeep of heritage sites?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

- (a) In order to encourage and assist in the development and marketing of South Indian destinations, in a unified manner, as a common tourist block, a meeting of the South India Tourism Ministers was organised on 5th June 2003 by Government of Andhra Pradesh in Hyderabad.
- (b) : It was resolved in the meeting to approach Government of India for implementation of 'Open-Sky policy'. It was also proposed to run a circular tourist train for South India.
- (c) to (e) : Department of Tourism, Government of India has a plan allocation of Rs.325 crores for the year 2003-04.

Development and promotion of tourism is mainly the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations. However, the Central Department of Tourism extends CFA under the following schemes: -

- 1) Integrated development of travel circuits
- 2) Product/Infrastructure & Destination development
- 3) Assistance for Large Revenue generating projects

All State Govts/UT Administrations including Southern States have already been requested to submit the proposals for the financial year 2003-04.

Department of Tourism is also promoting all tourist destinations of India in India and abroad through its India Tourism Offices.